

OUTDOORS

With **BRUCE WHITMAN**



ONE YEAR IS JUST about dead. Another is in the process of being born.

Many Pennsylvania sportsmen will remember 1967 as their year. For some it brought the very special Triple Trophy. Others will recall it as the year they first boated a Susquehanna muskie, or maybe a creel of trophy trout.

Others may recall 1967 for less spectacular, but still meaningful reasons. Like the men who took sons hunting for the first time, or the family that enjoyed its first experience of camping.

The new year will bring more of the same. There'll be new hunting and fishing seasons; four all new times of the year to take in what nature has in store — all told, a generous supply of outdoor adventures.

There will also be a certain carryover of old business to the new year. For instance, the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company's plans for State Game Lands property in Stony Creek Valley are still pending.

The utility firm has completed a series of test borings at the proposed site of a pump storage hydro electric project on Stony Creek. It would seem that tests favored plans for construction of the facility.

NEXT COMES A COST STUDY of the project. Should everything come up A-OK for PP&L concerning the project, the last step would be to seek approval from the State Game Commission.

PP&L has proposed a swap of sorts with the Game Commission. In return for 2,300 acres in State Game Lands 211 (only about 1,600 would be permanently devoted to the hydro electric project) the power company will turn over to the Game Commission the 4,500 acre Paschall tract in Clarks Valley. This tract was purchased by PP&L at a cost of \$550,000.

A few area sportsmen have pointed out that while the Paschall tract is adjacent to State Game Lands 211, there wouldn't really be a great deal of gain involved since it was open to public hunting and fishing in the past. Clarks Creek flows through the tract.

A new wrinkle has turned up in PP&L's proposed plans for Stony Creek. When first questioned concerning the project, company spokesmen told inquiring sportsmen that the two reservoirs involved would be closed to fishing because of the great fluctuation in water levels involved.

IN A RECENT NEWSLETTER SENT to a local sportsmen's group the company was quoted as saying: "PP&L will also construct (1) stone piers at appropriate places along the shoreline of the lower reservoir to provide access for persons wanting to fish and (2) picnic areas adjacent to the reservoir for the convenience of fishermen and hunters."

In addition, PP&L explained that it would make annual payments to the State Fish Commission to cover the cost of stocking fish in the lower reservoir proper and in Stony Creek in the vicinity of the reservoir.

Earlier this month nearly 1,600 members of the Harrisburg Hunters and Anglers Assn. were mailed 1968 club cards and a newsletter containing the following question:

"Do you think the Stony Creek project would be a hindrance to the sportsman? Yes..... No..... Please tear off and return."

It will be interesting to find out how many members take the time to fill out the slip of paper and return it to club officers. Also interesting will be the tally of answers on the subject.

THE HARRISBURG CLUB MEETS Tuesday at its Lower Paxton Twp. game farm to elect officers for the coming year. No doubt the Stony Creek question will come up at that meeting.